

Access to Health Care 2004 Results

HEALTH CARE ACCESS

Do you have any kind of health care coverage?

- Nineteen percent or about one in five Montana adults reported they were uninsured in 2004.
- The percentage of uninsured adults increased slightly in Montana from 2000 to 2004.
- Adults aged 18 to 24 (39%) were more likely to report being uninsured than older adults aged 35 to 64 (~18%). About 1 percent of adults aged 65 and older reported being uninsured (due to Medicare coverage).
- Only ten percent of adults with a college degree were uninsured in 2004 compared to adults with less education ($\geq 21\%$).
- Similarly, the percent of uninsured in households earning \$50,000 or more a year ($\geq 6\%$) was significantly less than households earning \$25,000 to \$49,999 ($> 16\%$). More than one-third of adults with household incomes of less than \$25,000 per year reported being uninsured in 2004.
- Eighteen percent of White, non-Hispanic adult Montanans were uninsured, while a third of non-White, Hispanic adults (33%), largely Native Americans (40%), were uninsured.

Do you have a personal doctor or health care provider?

- Overall, twenty-five percent of Montana adults did NOT have a personal health care provider or physician.
- More males (32%) than females (18%) reported no personal doctor.
- More than thirty-nine percent of adults younger than 35 years of age did NOT have a personal doctor.
- Native Americans (38%) were more likely to report no personal doctor or health care provider than White, non-Hispanics (24%).

Did you need to see a doctor in the past year, but could not because of the cost?

- In 2004, thirteen percent of Montana adults reported that they could not afford to see a doctor in the past year.
- Females (15%) were more likely to be unable to see a doctor because of cost than males (11%).
- Adults aged 44 or younger (17%) were more likely **not** be able to afford to see a doctor in the past year, than adults aged 65 and older (5%), likely a result of Medicare.
- The percentage of adults who could not afford a doctor in the past year was inversely associated with education and income levels. Higher percentages of adults with less than a high school degree (24%) and adults with annual household incomes less than \$25,000 ($\geq 23\%$) reported that they could not afford to see a doctor in the past year.
- More Native American Montana adults (21%) reported that they could not afford to see a doctor in the past year because of costs than White, non-Hispanic adults (13%).
- Twice as many adults with disability (23%) were not able to see a doctor in the past year because of costs, than adults without disability (11%).

Healthy People 2010 Objectives:

1-1 Increase the proportion of persons with health insurance to 100 percent

1-5. Increase the proportion of persons with a usual primary care provider to 85 percent.

Table 1. Health Care Access, Montana Adults, 2004]

[Figure 1. No Health Insurance, Montana Adults, 2000-2004]

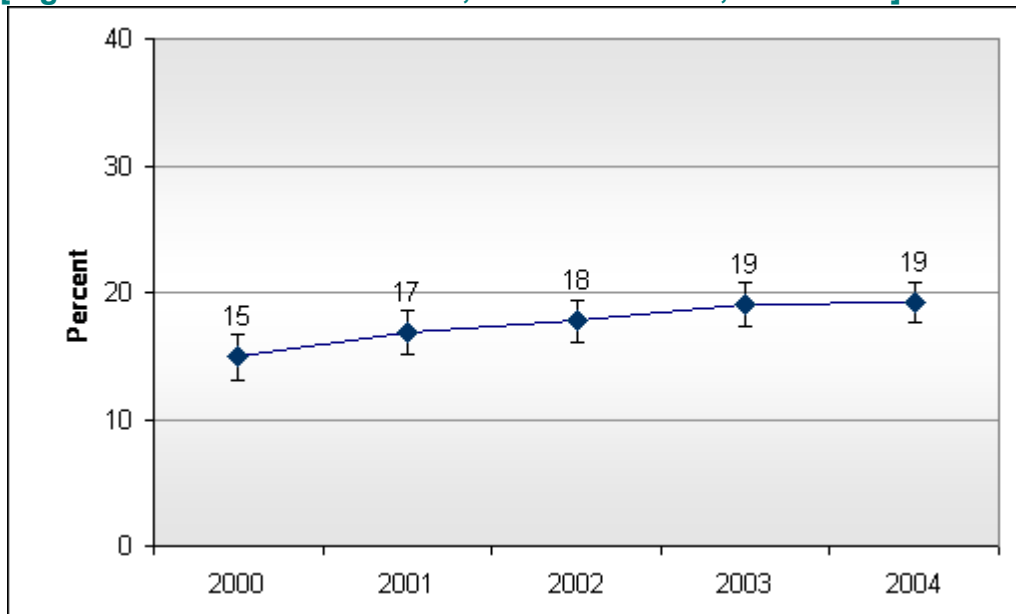


Figure 1. No Health Insurance, Montana Adults, 2000-2004.